

Message Text

PAGE 01 BANGKO 16579 250350Z

17/14
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
----- 070983

R 250316Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7666

S E C R E T BANGKOK 16579

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF, CINCPAC, USSAG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, TH
SUBJ: CONTINUED NEGOTIATION ON US FORCE REDUCTION

REF: BANGKOK 13782

1. GENERAL KRIANGSAK, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH POLMIL COUNSELOR OCTOBER 19, CONFIRMED HIS CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN RTG FOR NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING US MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND. IN FACT, HE CONSIDERS THAT NEW RELATIONSHIPS ALLOW HIM GREATER FREEDOM TO MAKE DECISIONS ON BEHALF OF RTG REGARDING FACILITIES FOR US FORCES, IN CONTRAST TO FORMER PRIME MINISTER THANOM'S INSISTENCE ON GIVING PERSONAL APPROVAL IN ADVANCE EVEN ON MINOR ACTIONS.

2. KRIANGSAK STRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR US-THAI RELATIONS THAT THERE CONTINUE TO BE REGULAR BILATERAL MEETINGS TO DISCUSS THE US PRESENCE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THESE MEETINGS SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY PUBLICITY AND MIGHT, FOR THE TIME BEING, BE LIMITED TO A SMALLER GROUP WHO COULD AGREE THAT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA DID NOT YET ALLOW FURTHER MAJOR US REDUCTIONS. HE SUGGESTED US PROVIDE FOR THIS PURPOSE BRIEFINGS ON THE MILITARY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA, WHICH CONCERNS THE RTG. COMMENT: KRIANGSAK'S SUGGESTION REGARDING BRIEFINGS ON SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 16579 250350Z

CAMBODIA WAS NOT A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION BUT AN ATTEMPT TO ADD SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES TO THESE MEETINGS. A NUMBER OF BRIEFINGS ON CAMBODIA HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY EMBASSY, MACTHAI, USSAG, AND OTHER OFFICERS AND WE HAVE

REGULAR ARRANGEMENT TO PROVIDE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO RTG ON CAMBODIA AND OTHER MATTERS. KRIANGSAK'S POINT IS THAT THE CONSIDERS IT SEENTIAL THAT HE BE ABLE TO REPORT FAITHFULLY TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT TALKS ARE CONTINUING AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN SUBSTANTIATE THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN PROCESS IF QUESTIONS ARE RAISED. END COMMENT.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH FOREGOING, FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS MONDAY, OCT. 22: QUOTE. PULLOUT TALKS CONTINUE. THAI AND AMERICAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES WILL CONTINUE TALKS ON THE GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE US TROOPS FROM THIS COUNTRY, LT. GEN. KRIANGSAK CHAMANAND, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF SAID YESTERDAY.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THAI TEAM TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON WITHDRAWAL SAID THE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION WILL CAUSE NO CHANGES IN THE REDUCTION OF US TROOPS IN THAILAND. HE ADDED THAT THERE WILL BE NO WITHDRAWALS OF US TROOPS THIS MONTH, BECAUSE THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES IS INSECURE. END QUOTE.

4. MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AIR CHIEF MARSHAL DAWEE, TOOK SAME LINE IN RESPONSE TO QUERY FROM NEWSMAN AT OCT. 24 PRESS CONFERENCE. QUOTE. SINCE THE NECESSITY FOR CERTAIN ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ENDED NOW, THE UNITED STATES IS WITHDRAWING ITS MILITARY FORCES STEADILY. WE DO NOT HAVE TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE MEETINGS ARE HELD REGULARLY. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS A COMMITTEE COORDINATING WORK WITH ALLIES THAT IS IN CHARGE OF HOLDING MEETINGS REGULARLY TO DETERMINE WHICH UNITS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN, AND THE PROPER TIME FOR THEM TO BE WITHDRAWN. END QUOTE.

5. WITH REGARD POSSIBLE FURTHER REDUCTIONS, EMBASSY HAS BEEN REQUESTED THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS TO PROVIDE PACAF WITH "POLITICAL ASSESSMENT" REGARDING USAF PLANS TO SALVAGE 23 EB-66 AIRCRAFT NOW IN THAILAND. OUR REPLY WAS THAT AT PRESENT TIME IT WOULD BE IN US INTEREST TO REDEPLOY AIR-
SECRET

PAGE 03 BANGKO 16579 250350Z

CRAFT FROM THAILAND FOR SALVAGE INSTEAD OF DEADLINING THEM IN STORAGE AT THAI BASES PENDING FINAL DECISION ON DISPOSITION. IT APPEARS TO US THAT, IF US MILITARY HAS NO FURTHER NEED FOR THESE AIRCRAFT, WE SHOULD NOTIFY RTG SOON OF OUR INTENTIONS TO REMOVE THESE AIRCRAFT AND ASSOCIATED PERSONNEL AS A TOKEN OF OUR CONTINUING INTENTION TO MAKE ORDERLY REDUCTIONS AS THE SITUATION PERMITS.

6. COMMENT: KRIANGSAK'S JUDGMENT ABOUT HIS GREATER FREEDOM MAY BE PREMATURE SINCE WE DOUBT ISSUE HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED BY LEADERS NEW GOVERNMENT. RE PARA 2 (ABOVE) WE PROPOSE TO INDICATE OUR READINESS TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS

ON US PRESENCE, SUGGESTING WE KEEP THEM FOR PRESENT BETWEEN
MILITARY AUTHORITIES, AND COVERING GROUND INDICATED BY
KRIANGSAK WITHOUT GETTING INTO FURTHER REDUCTIONS UNLESS
RAISED BY THAIS.
UNGER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF,CINCPAC, USSAG.

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, TROOP REDUCTIONS, MILITARY PLANS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO16579
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750014-1489
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731065/abqcefme.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: BANGKOK 13782
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUED NEGOTIATION ON US FORCE REDUCTION
TAGS: MARR, TH, (KRIANGSAK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005